

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4775

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1554

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR MRN 1554 VICE 4775)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, SP
SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NPT

REF: STATE 041792

1. WHEN I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA FEB. 29, I TOLD HIM THAT IN URGING SPAIN TO SIGN NPT WE WERE NOT ENDEAVORING EITHER TO PRESSURE SPAIN OR TO INTERFERE WITH WHAT MUST BE A SPANISH DECISION ALONE. WE HAD ONLY WANTED TO BRING TO GOS ATTENTION IMPORTANCE WHICH IS ATTACHED TO NON-PROLIFERATION IN US BY CONGRESS AND BY PUBLIC OPINION AND TO SUGGEST THAT SOME POLITICAL ADVANTAGE MIGHT DERIVE TO SPAIN IN ADHERING TO NPT WHICH HAS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT IN EUROPE AND US. I NOTED THAT IN HIS INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM BUCKLEY THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD MADE CLEAR THAT SPAIN WANTED TO KEEP ITS NUCLEAR OPTIONS OPEN.

2. I ALSO TOLD AREILZA THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD GIVE ITS FULLEST SUPPORT TO APPROVAL BY SENATE OF TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION ON BASIS OF ITS MERITS. I MENTIONED THAT SFRC HEARINGS WOULD BEGIN MARCH 3 AND THAT ATMOSPHERE SEEMED POSITIVE. WE COULD NOT, OF COURSE, GUARANTEE THAT SOME SENATORS MIGHT NOT RAISE
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NPT IN CONTEXT EXIMBANK LOANS.

3. AREILZA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS. HE EXPLAINED THAT HIS STATEMENT TO BUCKLEY ABOUT NPT WHICH HAD BEEN PICKED UP AND REPORTED BY GINIGER OF NEW YORK TIMES WHO HAD BEEN PRESENT DURING BUCKLEY INTERVIEW HAD BEEN MADE WITH AN EYE ON SPANISH MILITARY WHO DID NOT LIKE IDEA OF NPT ADHERENCE, SINCE IT RESTRICTED SPAIN'S FREEDOM OF ACTION, PARTICULARLY WHEN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES HAVE NOT ADHERED. AREILZA POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO SAY SPAIN WOULD NOT SIGN NPT. ADHERENCE QUESTION HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITHIN GOS, BUT HE DID NOT RULE OUT SPAIN'S SIGNING AT SOME FUTURE DATE. AREILZA THEN VOLUNTEERED THAT HE WOULD ASK BUCKLEY TO REMOVE FROM HIS TAPED INTERVIEW ANY REFERENCE TO NPT. HE RECOGNIZED HIS COMMENTS MIGHT CAUSE CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS DURING RATIFICATION AND THESE HE WANTED TO AVOID.
STABLER

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